

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 01908 252336Z

13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 STRE-00 AGR-05 L-03 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 /088 W

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R 251719Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 602

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1730

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PASS AGRICULTURE, PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS PROPOSAL-- DEPUTIES OF 113 COMMITTEE

TAKE UP ACP COMMENTS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1862, (B) EC BRUSSELS 1820

1. EC PERM DEL OFFICIALS INFORMED US OF THE RESULTS OF THE
FEB. 24 ARTICLE 113 DEPUTIES COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF THE ACP
COUNTRIES OBJECTIONS TO THE EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS PROPOSAL. (SEE REF A
).

GENERALLY LITTLE PROGRESS WAS MADE BUT A CONSENSUS IS EMERGING
ON THE TOBACCO CONCESSIONS. SEVEN MEMBER STATE DELEGATIONS
SUPPORT THE COMMISSION REVISED PROPOSAL (PARA 4, REF B). THEY
WOULD GO EVEN FURTHER AND REDUCE THE DUTY TO 7 PERCENT FOR
BOTH 24.01A AND B TOBACCO IMPORTS. HOWEVER, THE GROUP BELIEVES THAT
TOBACCO VARIETIES FALLING UNDER 24.01 A, OTHER THAN VIRGINIA
AND BURLEY , SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO A MINIMUM DUTY OF 33 UNITS
OF ACCOUNT.

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 01908 252336Z

2. ITALY CONTINUES TO OBJECT TO THE TOBACCO PROPOSAL.

MOST OBSERVERS HERE, HOWEVER, EXPECT THE GOI TO LIFT ITS OBJECTION AT TH MARCH 1-2 COUNCIL, IF THE COMMISSION WILL IN TURN AGREE TO TAKE STEPS TO ASSIST ITALIAN TOBACCO PRODUCTION. (IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION TRAN VAN THINH HAD TOLD US THAT THE COMMISSION EXPECTED TO HAVE TO INCREASE ITS PAYMENTS TO DOMESTIC PRODUCERS BY ABOUT \$25,000,000 AS A RESULT OF ITS TOBACCO OFFER. IN OTHER WORDS, THE ASSISTANCE IS ALREADY BEING PLANNED.) THE UK HAS A RESERVATION BECUASE THE CURRENT PROPOSAL INCREASES THE DUTY ON SOME CHEAPER TOBACCO VARIETIES. UK PERM DEL SOURCES EXPECT THIS RESERVATION TO BE LIFTED EVENTUALLY.

3. THE 113 DEPUTIES COMMITTEE DECIDED TO RESPOND TO OTHER ACP OBJECTIONS BY INCREASING THE PROPOSED DUTY ON THE FOLLOWING COMMODITIES BY 1 PERCENT: COFFEE, COCOA, SOME SPICES AND SOME TROPICAL FRUITS. THE COMMITTEE DID NOT AGREE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO ACP OBJECTIONS TO VARIOUS SEAFOOD AND TROPICAL OIL PRODUCTS. THESE TIEMS WILL BE TAKEN UP BY THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON FEB. 26HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROPICAL PRODUCTS, AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, MEETINGS, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU01908
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760071-1063
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760216/aaaaanbk.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 1862, 76 EC BRUSSELS 1820
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS PROPOSAL-- DEPUTIES OF 113 COMMITTEE TAKE UP ACP COMMENTS
TAGS: ETRD, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006